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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 7

April 25, 1942

GEORGIA (April 1).--In Food-for-Freedom program 611 county meetings held, attendance 40,583, and 3,945 community meetings, attendance 128,902, with discussion of programs and problems, expansion of production to meet goals, etc.

Now delineating natural boundaries of communities and neighborhoods, organizing community leaders. 10 to 20 farm families assigned each leader.

Working closely with Georgia State Agricultural Council composed of heads Federal agencies in State, State Superintendent Schools, State Commissioner Agriculture, Department Natural Resources, and 3 members State Planning Board.

All agents instructed in groups on details and requirements in setting up and operating egg assembly plants.

State-wide nutrition meeting scheduled June 11-12. County institutes and leader training meetings planned for food preservation. Neighborhood group meetings emphasized.

Assisted in short course for rural ministers held at college, discussion centering around family living, nutrition, housing, and home industries.

IOWA (April 15).--61 counties completed appointment men cooperators in 95 percent school districts, with 82 percent already trained. 82 percent of farmers reached by these cooperators. In nutrition and family food supply campaign reports of 56 counties show 88 percent women educational cooperators appointed with 80 percent trained. 630 urban men and women cooperators trained. In these 56 counties cooperators reached 32,247 rural families, 6,429 urban.

12 district soil-conservation training schools completed. Indications counties will conduct more than 800 local training schools for farmers before corn-planting time. Five conservation leaflets distributed farmers these schools: Grassed Waterways--Guard the Land; Strip Cropping Saves Soil; Lime for Higher Yields; Grow Quality Forage in Abundance; Stretch Your Pasture Season. SCS cooperated in preparing leaflets.

Nine district conferences county agents to be held week April 20, on theme "Save More Livestock." Management, sanitation, disease prevention, to be emphasized. Plan to hold training schools for men educational co-operators on this phase.

Women educational cooperators being trained in canning fruits and vegetables, and preparing such produce for freezer lockers.

KANSAS (April 15).--Demonstrations on detailed farm planning to increase food production and improve business organization of farms conducted all counties in cooperation National Farm Loan Associations. 20,000 farm account books distributed to farmers. Farm-account training schools held in 34 counties.

Farm storage 1942 harvest being stressed. Indications egg production goal will be exceeded. Need for increased soybean production discussed 24 meetings with attendance 1,654. Estimated production 1,650,000 bushels.

In western Kansas emphasis placed on producing and utilizing feed crops. Meetings held 37 counties at which production feed for livestock chief topic.

Assistant agents named in 4 counties to conduct special conservation programs with cooperators in Soil Conservation programs.

7 specially trained nutritionists will hold from 1 to 5 meetings in each county on food preservation at which one leader for each 8 to 12 farm families will be trained. Reports from individual counties show leaders trained in vegetable selection and cookery; use of whole-grain cereals and enriched flour; home care of the sick; accident prevention and first aid; etc. In one county 52 leaders studied feeding farm laborers with emphasis on need for more care in planning to keep town boys and men from becoming ill from wrong foods.

KENTUCKY (April 15).--37 meetings by groups of counties held with home garden leaders representing every county. 2,500 service letters, 6,360 monthly garden letters, 40,000 "The Vegetable Garden Month by Month" distributed. Meetings of commercial growers held in 19 counties to make plans for solving labor difficulties and other problems.

Now in midst series 121 meetings in interest raising 33,000 acres hemp for seed. Sign-up completed for 32,000 acres. Castor beans also discussed. Soybean meetings held number counties.

Poultry leader training meetings held every county. Improved management small flocks for increased production advocated. From 500 to 1,000 farmers each county reseeded old pastures to supply needed feed. State goal 1 million acres improved pastures. Leaders' meetings held for pork and

beef producers; use of more roughage, including silage, urged as means producing more meat. Farmers advised need lamb pelts for aviators' coats; prospect about 300,000 late lambs whose pelts will be in proper condition.

Production seed barley, rye, wheat, oats, vetch, lespedeza, etc., stressed. Indications goals will be met. Combine harvesters in State will be pressed into service for harvesting seed crops.

Farm machinery repair work pressed and check sheets provided in large numbers to induce farmers to inspect machinery and order repairs and parts early.

Assisting OCD in salvage collection. 17,744 tons scrap iron and steel collected 104 counties. Members 4-H Clubs 36 counties report 1,610,494 pounds scrap metal, 24,767 pounds rubber, 123,499 pounds paper, 29,042 pounds rags.

Gardening by 4-H Club members increased 200 percent production swine and poultry increased.

MISSISSIPPI (April 18).--Food-for-Freedom program 30 counties report 399 meetings with attendance 17,088. Nutrition schools 53 counties, attendance 3,028. 14 counties indicate sign-up 19,507 acres peanuts for oil production. 1,791 Negro farmers attended Food-for-Freedom meetings 8 counties.

Collection and shipment 1,584 tons scrap iron in 11 counties.

Replies from 2,087 sharecroppers and 916 farm operators Holmes County to questionnaire mailed by county agent and chairman county war board showed following for each family: 43 jars vegetables and 66 jars fruit canned, 2.4 hogs killed, 22 hens and 1.33 milk cows kept, 35 gallons sirup made, 30 bushels sweetpotatoes, 35 bushels Irish potatoes. Increases along all lines planned this year.

Other individual county reports show following activities: Local and community leaders trained; farmers assisted in getting lespedeza seed; production peanuts for oil subject number meetings; garden program advancing; egg marketing associations formed to facilitate handling; cooperative purchases registered bulls; soil conservation stressed.

4-H Club members continue wartime efforts. Members one county securing pigs to be raised by them as community enterprise, sold, and money used for purchase bonds and stamps.

NEBRASKA (April 15).--Incomplete returns show 61,771 sign-ups in Victory Garden campaign, with 28 counties having 1,000 or more signers. In Pasture-Forage-Livestock endeavor 1,881 farmers have filled out their farm balance sheets indicating their acceptance of program. Final date to finish sign-up extended to May 1, expect enrollment to climb to 3,000.

Plans being made to organize for defense against destructive fires in rural areas.

4-H Mobilization Week gave impetus to club organization and enrollment. A total of 1,523 clubs are organized with 12,509 boys and girls enrolled, making 2,000 more enrolled than at same time last year. Total enrollment will not be completed before June 1.

Specific information on all phases of program sent out in series of mimeographed letters showing things to be done and precautions to be exercised during next several months.

OREGON (April 1).--Following State Victory Garden conference, meetings held every county with excellent attendance; community meetings also being held. Some counties Victory Garden Week declared by county courts.

Feed-wheat program, meetings held all wheat-growing counties cooperation AAA and Oregon Wheat League organizing pools, arranging with local dealers handle wheat narrow margin.

Extension workers arranged and participated in 27 forage and cover crop seed meetings 19 counties, attendance 1,207, for purpose carrying subject matter to new growers on methods production, pest control, harvesting. Oregon produces 50 percent Nation's supply several kinds of seeds; acreage increased 50 percent. Better forage and pasture discussed in meetings 14 counties, attendance 656.

Two extension specialists assigned Emergency Farm Fire Protection Project in State-wide program under way in cooperation all agencies dealing with fire protection. Program explained extension workers in 5 district conferences. Rural fire crews being organized. Objective--a trained and equipped voluntary rural fire crew in every rural community.

In cooperation Federal Employment Service farm labor subcommittees set up 27 counties. 4 district conferences held in cooperation BAE, information Federal Employment Service on time harvesting and volume of production various crops.

County and community land use meetings held every county on 1943 goals. Detailed county-by-county analysis to be made.

Food-for-Freedom subject 418 meetings participated in by 281 local leaders and attended by 10,482 people. During March 774 meetings dealing with some phase homemakers' contribution war program held, attendance 18,593. 48,000 copies "Food To Keep You Fit" distributed. Community recreation as means releasing tension and building morale subject 73 training meetings, attendance 3,099. Help given homemakers in construction and care clothing.

Farm machinery repair and new equipment program emphasized every county. Continue holding farm machinery repair schools.

Extension agents Benton, Polk, Jackson Counties, in cooperation land use planning committees and special cantonment committee of farmers, aiding farm families displaced by Army cantonments.

Advisory assistance given in maintaining production of evacuated farms, and at request War Relocation Authority, cooperation assured in finding work for evacuees.

4-H Club members and leaders have shifted emphasis in 4-H Club program to meet wartime needs of Nation with increased attention production, food processing, health and nutrition, fire protection. Members active in sales bonds and stamps and collection scrap iron and other waste materials. One 4-H Club agent given leave of absence to direct fire protection training among Oregon youth throughout State.

RHODE ISLAND (April 15).--Pushing Victory Garden program and establishment community canning centers, with OCD cooperation.

Two poultry schools held for discussion candling, grading, marketing eggs.

First two weeks April designated "Farm Salvage for Victory" drive. Plans inaugurated for completing campaign. Local granges taking part.

Assisting farmers reduce duplication travel in assembly of milk for Providence market.

Feasible maximum production goals 1943 discussed with farmers in all county land use committees and in other group meetings.

SOUTH DAKOTA (April 15).--Participated in State conference called by War Board to explain organization and procedure county war boards and how personnel can assist county boards in functioning more effectively.

1943 production estimates will be made all counties by May 15. County agents responsible for getting county reports. Each fieldman or supervisor of the USDA agencies given supervisory responsibility over 2 to 4 counties. Specialists assigned 19 counties to assist in getting information. Plan developed by State planning committee and approved by War Board. County planning committees will cooperate.

Brief statement relative wheat situation furnished all agents.

"Bug Bomb" cards relative insect control distributed all garden cooperators.

A garden play and other material for suggested school program sent to all agents and county school superintendents.

Five one-day district conferences scheduled to instruct agents in laying out fields on contour so that they may assist farmers interested in such practice.

VIRGINIA (April 15).--Every county now organized with county board agriculture and man and woman committee member every neighborhood serving 30 to 40 families, approximately 7,500 committeemen in all.

Demonstrations planned use fertilizer commercial vegetable production. Three buying stations for surplus eggs established; plans made to organize collecting centers and routes in counties.

Eight district meetings delegates home demonstration clubs attended by 1,600 who received up-to-minute information on war efforts and contributions to take back to clubs.

4-H Mobilization Week successful; enrollment some counties nearly doubled. Stressing continued support 4-H projects following mobilization.